

1996 TAFF Ballot

What is TAFF? - The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund was created in 1953 for the purpose of providing funds to bring well-known and popular fans familiar to those on both sides of the ocean across the Atlantic. Since that time, TAFF has regularly brought North American fans to European conventions and European fans to North American conventions. TAFF exists solely through the support of fandom. The candidates are voted on by interested fans all over the world, and each vote is accompanied by a donation of not less than \$2 or £1. These votes and the continued generosity of fandom, are what make TAFF possible.

Who may vote? - Voting in the 1996 race is open to anyone who was active in fandom prior to September 1994 (or who has a convincing story) and who contributes at least \$2 or £1 to the Fund. Larger contributions are recommended for those without references. Voting is by secret ballot; only one vote per person, and **you must sign your ballot**. You may change your vote and/or name at any time prior to the deadline.

Deadline - Votes in this race must reach the administrators by midnight April 29, 1996.

Voting Details - TAFF uses the New Zealand ballot system which guarantees automatic runoffs no matter who's in the lead. You rank the candidates in the exact order of your preference for having them visit (or leave) your country for a while. Details on how the ballots are counted and distributed are available upon request... however, if you **really** wanted your candidate to win, you'd increase your contribution (see **Who may vote?** above).

Hold Over Funds - This choice, like "No Award" in Hugo balloting, gives you the chance to vote for no TAFF trip this year, if the candidates are not appealing or just not faaaanish enough. Hold Over Funds may be voted in any position; thus, should it receive a majority of the votes on the final ballot, the funds will be Held Over the hands of the candidates. They are thus taunted until they develop more interesting platforms.

No Preference - Some people just don't care who wins but still have too much money. We heartily encourage their participation.

Donations - TAFF gratefully accepts your freely given money and material for auction; such generosity has sustained the Fund for 40 years (really!). TAFF is fandom's oldest travel fund and one of its worthiest causes - give early and often! Please contact your nearest administrator for details.

Candidates - Each candidate has posted a bond, promising - barring Acts of God, or aversion to hot weather -- to travel to L.A.con III, the 1996 World Science Fiction Convention in Anaheim, California, USA, August 29-September 2, 1996 if elected, and has provided signed nominations and a platform (overleaf -- sort of).

Please read both sides of this ballot before making an arbitrary decision.

name

signature

street

Enclosed is _____ as a contribution to TAFF. Please make checks, etc., payable to Dan ("BLAT") Steffan or Abigail ("Cuddles") Frost, not to "TAFF" and in the currency of the administrator's country.

town

nation

If you think your name may not be known to the administrators, then in order to qualify your vote please give, in the space below, the name and address of a real life fan (doesn't this sound like MCI's Friends & Families?).

phone number (we get lonely at night)

Reproduction of this form is encouraged. It is the semi-official voting vehicle and it beats paying for flyers ourselves.

1996 TAFF Ballot - Europe to North America

(NOTE: at press time, none of our candidates had provided a platform for publication. Rather than show up empty handed, we are printing samples of their writing.)

Leo Brett

Once it had landed the silence was gone — like an illusion that is destroyed when the curtains of a stage are pulled aside. The silence was broken by metallic noises. Harsh clanking, jarring, metallic noises. Things were stirring within the disc ship. Strange metallic things; things that were alien to the soft green grass of earth.

Terrifying things, steel things; metal things; things with cylindrical bodies and multitudinous jointed limbs. Things without flesh and blood. Things that were made of metal and plastic and transistors and valves and relays, and wires. Metal things. Metal things that could think. *Thinking metal things.*

Nominators: Joan Carr, James Tiptree, Jr., Atom, Rene Lafayette, George Orwell

Pel Torro

The things were odd, weird, grotesque. There was something horribly uncustomary and unwonted about them. They were completely unfamiliar. Their appearance was outlandish and extraordinary. There was something quite phenomenal about them. They were supernatural; they were unparalleled; they were unexampled. The shape of the aliens was singular in every sense. They were curious, odd, queer, peculiar and fantastic, and yet when every adjective had been used on them, when every preternatural epithet had been applied to their aberrant and freakish appearance, when everything that could be said about such eccentric, exceptional, anomalous creatures had been said, they still remained indescribable in any concrete terms.

Nominators: Gordon Ashe, Carl Brandon, John Wyndham, Sharyn McCrumb, Saki

John E. Muller

His mind became filled with unanswerable question marks. He tried to ponder the imponderable; he tried to answer the unanswerable; he tried to believe the unbelievable, and to comprehend the incomprehensible. The result of these valiant mental efforts was a headache, so he lay back on the raft and relaxed; there was nothing else he could do.

Nominators: Lucas Parkes, Raccoona Sheldon, Sax Rohmer, Maurice G. Hugi, Joan the Wad

**Please read and fill out both sides of this sheet. Send in entire sheet as your vote.
(That way, no evidence is left behind.)**

I vote for (rank 1, 2, 3, 4, Etc.)

Send ballot and donation to:

() Leo Brett

Dan Steffan
3804 South 9th St.
Arlington, VA 22204
United States of America

() Pel Torro

() John E. Muller

Abigail Frost
95 Wilmot St.
London E2 0BP
United Kingdom

() Hold Over Funds

() No Preference

THIS IS A HOAX! NO TYPOS WERE HARMED DURING ITS PRODUCTION! PAY NO ATTENTION TO THAT MAN BEHI